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IRAN-IRAN-DOCUMENTS

TEHERAN, JULY 4: REUTER -- THE STUDENTS WHO
AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN IRAN PUBLISHED FURTHER
WHICH THEY SAID SHOWED INTRICATE EFFORTS TO ENLIST FORMER
IRANIAN PRESIDENT MOHAMMED BANI-SADR AS A U.S. CENTRAL
INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) AGENT.

THE STUDENTS SAID THE DOCUMENTS, PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S
EVENING NEWSPAPER KAYHAN, HAD BEEN FOUND AFTER THE NOVEMBER
1979 TAKEOVER OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEHERAN. SOME HAD BEEN
SHREWDLY, BUT WERE PAINSTAKINGLY PIECED TOGETHER.

THEY DESCRIBED EFFORTS BY THE CIA, CODENAMED "(R.T.ACTION)",
TO ENLIST MR. BANI-SADR IN PARIS SHORTLY BEFORE THE FEBRUARY
1979 REVOLUTION AND LATER THE SAME YEAR IN TEHERAN.

THE DOCUMENTS DESCRIBED HOW A 63-YEAR-OLD MAN CODENAMED
RUTHERFORD, WHO THEY SAID WAS A RETIRED CIA AGENT CALLED
("VERNON LESSON") MADE CLOAK-AND-DAGGER PHONE CALLS AND TRIPS IN
TEHERAN IN THE SUMMER OF 1979 TRYING TO WIN OVER MR. BANI-SADR.

(LIKE MOST OF THE AMERICAN NAMES IN THIS REPORT ("VERNON
LESSON") IS A PHONETIC RENDERING FROM THE PERSI ALPHABET USED BY
KAYHAN.)

THE DOCUMENTS, WHICH REFERRED TO MR. BANI-SADR BY THE
CODENAME L.I. OR S.I. LOER, INCLUDED NO EVIDENCE THAT MR.
BANI-SADR HAD ACCEPTED THE CIA OFFER, WHICH INCLUDED A
\$1,000-DOLLAR-A-MONTH SALARY.

BUT THE STUDENTS ALSO PUBLISHED THE TEXT OF WHAT THEY SAID
AS THE INTERROGATION OF LOCAL CIA OPERATIVE TOM RHERN, ONE OF
THE HOSTAGES, DURING HIS CAPTIVITY. IT QUOTED HIM AS SAYING
THAT MR. BANI-SADR ACCEPTED THE OFFER.

MR. BANI-SADR AT THE TIME WAS A MEMBER OF IRAN'S
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, WHICH WAS RUNNING IRAN UNDER THE
GUIDANCE OF RELIGIOUS LEADER AyATOLLAH RUMOLLAH KHOMEINI.

HE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN IN PUBLIC SINCE HIS OUSTING LAST MONTH
AS ARMED FORCES COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. HE WAS LATER FIRED AS
PRESIDENT AND WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT ON THE DOCUMENTS.

THEY DESCRIBED THE CIA'S INTRICATE EFFORTS TO GET A SAFE
"COVER" FOR RUTHERFORD IN CASE FORGED DOCUMENTS DID NOT STAND
UP TO CLOSE SCRUTINY.